

Serial No.: 10/019,706

Attorney Docket No.: 20496/364

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration in light thereof are respectfully requested. The claims have been amended to more clearly set forth the invention. These amendments do not require any additional searching. Additionally, arguments are presented below explaining why it is believed that the claims, as amended herein, are allowable over the newly cited prior art. In any event, the amendments to the claims place the application in better condition for appeal. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment and reconsideration in light thereof are respectfully requested.

In the final Office Action dated August 5, 2004, the Examiner rejected claim 6-8, 11, and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over newly cited U.S. 3,809,155 (Anthony et al., hereinafter US '155) in view of previously cited US 1,701,889 (Junker, hereinafter US '889). The Examiner further rejected claims 9, 10, 12, 13, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. '155 in view of US '889, and further in view of newly cited US 4,957,821 (Nicholson et al., hereinafter US '821). However, for the reasons set forth herein, it is believed that applicant's claimed invention is patentable over the prior art of record for the following reasons:

US '155 discloses a method for producing an aluminum composite material which is tube-shaped, wherein a strip of a cladding material 2 is placed onto a rolled core element 4, wherein the aluminum composite material is produced by rolling. See col. 3, lines 39-40. In contrast to the presently claimed invention, however, the cladding strip of US '155 is not cut from an aluminum ingot and immediately placed on the core alloy to

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be rolled together with the core ingot to become a composite material. Instead, according to US '155, first the aluminum ingot of the core material is rolled into strips. Afterwards, cladding strips are placed on the core material which is then strip-shaped. Finally, in a last step, the strip-shaped core material and the cladding strips are rolled together to become a composite material. See US '155 at col. 3, lines 36-40. Therefore, according to the method described in US '155, it is required that the core ingot be rolled to a strip-shaped core material prior to placing the cladding material on the core material.

Furthermore, the only description in US '155 of the manufacture of the cladding strips states that such cladding strips are produced by rolling of a cladding material prior to placing the strips on the core material and rolling both another time. See US '155, at col. 4, lines 53 to 56, ingot C. In contrast thereto, according to the presently claimed invention, first a cladding layer is cut from a cladding material which cladding layer is then placed, without any further machining or treatment, in particular, without rolling of the cladding material, onto the aluminum ingot to be clad. The term "cladding sheet" usually implies that the cladding material is rolled. However, this is not the case in applicant's invention. Therefore, the term "cladding sheet" is amended herein to "cladding layer" which implies that no such rolling occurs.

Furthermore, according to US '155, the rolled cladding strips and the rolled core material are bonded to each other by welding the rolled cladding strips to the rolled core material prior to final rolling of the composite material. See, US '155 at col. 4, lines 58 to 63. In other words, according to US '155, the composite material is produced by

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welding the cladding strips to the strip-shaped core material, and the composite material is then rolled another time. In contrast thereto, according to the presently claimed invention, the composite material is produced merely by rolling together the cladding layer and the ingot serving as the core. The time-consuming welding step is thus not required for the presently claimed invention as it is for US '155.

US '889 only discloses a method by which metal strips are produced from an ingot by cutting a thin layer from an ingot using a cutting tool. US '889, by itself does not disclose producing a cladding layer or any other metal strips, especially not aluminum alloy strips suitable for cladding. Therefore, a person skilled in the art would not find it obvious to combine US '899 with US '155 in order to arrive at the presently claimed invention.

Furthermore, US '889 also does not suggest the possibility that a layer peeled off by a cutting tool is, without further rolling, already suitable for use as a cladding layer in a composite material. The combination of US '899 and US '155 still requires that a cladding layer cut from an ingot would still have to be rolled into a strip before it could be used as cladding for a composite material.

Furthermore, US '889 does not teach or suggest placing a cladding layer produced by cutting from an ingot directly onto a not yet rolled second ingot, the second ingot being used as core material. It's more likely that a person skilled in the art, even when combining US '899 with US '155, would first roll the ingot to be used as core material and only afterwards place a cladding strip onto the core.

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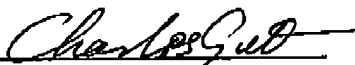
Moreover, US '889 does not teach or suggest that for producing the composite material, the step of welding the cladding strips to the core material may be omitted and that instead the cladding layer and the core material are bonded to each other only by rolling.

It is therefore believed that claims 1 and 14 are patentable over the prior art of record. As all other claims depend from claims 1 and 14, it is believed that they too are patentable over the prior art of record for the reasons given above.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and a favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested. If there are any issues which prevent allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 28, 2005

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